

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN EB-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, LE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - BILATERAL TALKS

REF: (A) BEIRUT 4530 (B) STATE 120558

1. DEPT APPRECIATES REF A REVIEW OF PAST USG-GOL EXCHANGES WITH RESPECT TO TIMING AND VENUE OF FORTHCOMING CIVAIR TALKS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING POSSIBLE LEBANESE REACTION TO PROPOSAL THAT TALKS BEGIN IN WASHINGTON ON SEPT 2.

2. RE TIMING OF TALKS, WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER AN EARLIER DATE SHOULD LEBANESE PRESS. HOWEVER, FROM POINT OF VIEW OF SCHEDULING AND PREPARING FOR TALKS, SEPT 2 REMAINS EARLIEST DATE WHICH WILL NOT CAUSE ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUBSTANTIVE DIFFICULTIES. LEBANESE SHOULD APPRECIATE THAT STATEMENT MADE IN JANUARY THAT "THE U.S. IS UNABLE TO MEET EARLIER THAN LATE SPRING OR EARLY SUMMER" IS NOT A COMMITMENT TO MEET IN JULY.

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3. RE VENUE OF TALKS, DEPT HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY ADDRESSED

THE QUESTION IN INSTRUCTIONS TO EMBASSY SINCE HISTORY OF 1972 NEGOTIATION AND ACCEPTED PRACTICE CLEARLY INDICATED WASHINGTON AS SITE FOR RENEGOTIATION--A FACTOR THAT DEPT BELIEVED COULD BE POINTED OUT IF NECESSARY WHEN IT PROPOSED SPECIFIC DATES FOR TALKS. ALSO, SCARCITY OF TRAVEL FUNDS REQUIRES THAT WASHINGTON BE PROPOSED IN FIRST INSTANCE WHENEVER APPROPRIATE AS SITE FOR CONSULTATIONS. WHILE IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE TALKS IN BEIRUT IN CONJUNCTION WITH USDEL TRAVEL TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN MIDEAST, CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER AREA GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATED. WE WOULD BE HARD PRESSED TO JUSTIFY TRIP SOLELY TO BEIRUT.

4. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY SHOULD RESPOND TO LEBANESE AS INSTRUCTED PARA 1, REF B AND SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE PARA 2, REF B POINTS. KISSINGER

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